

CLAIMS

1. A system for creating an electronic document from a source document having a source content, said electronic document providing linear and hierarchical navigational elements, said system comprising:

- a computer;
- a means for inputting said source document into said computer in the form of a series of HTML files;
- a means for creating a page node for each file and assigning a sequential ordering to each said page node;
- an outliner means for assigning hierarchical relationships between said page nodes, whereby at least two hierarchical levels are established;
- a templater means for defining a template, said template specifying characteristics of the visual appearance of the electronic document;
- a means for storing said template; and,
- a rendering means for creating final HTML pages to be displayed, said rendering means employing said template, said hierarchical relationships and said source content.

2. The system of claim 1 wherein said outliner means comprises a drag and drop computer interface means.

3. The system of claim 1 wherein said templater means utilizes a series of template elements and template substitution codes.

4. The system of claim 3 wherein said rendering means comprises performing a series of substitutions in accordance with said template substitution codes.

5. The system of claim 4 wherein said rendering means further comprises building a string to be inserted for each appropriate hierarchical level whenever a hierarchical substitution code is encountered.

6. The system of claim 1 further comprising a publisher means for distributing over the Internet said final HTML pages.

5 7. The system of claim 6 further comprising a previewer means for viewing at the computer how the final HTML pages will appear to an Internet reader.

8. The system of claim 1 wherein said source content is in at least one of a plurality of formats, said plurality of formats selected from the group consisting of
10 printed pages, HTML, Adobe Portable Document Format (PDF), Graphics Interchange Format (GIF), Joint Photographic Experts (JPEG), Microsoft Word, and any other electronic format recognizable by the computer.

9. A method for creating an electronic document from a source document
15 having a source content, said electronic document providing linear and hierarchical navigational elements, said method comprising the steps of:

inputting said source document into a computer in the form of a series of HTML files;

20 creating a page node for each file and assigning a sequential ordering to each said page node;

assigning hierarchical relationships between said page nodes, whereby at least two hierarchical levels are established;

defining a template, said template specifying characteristics of the visual appearance of the electronic document;

25 storing said template; and,

rendering final HTML pages to be displayed, said rendering employing said template, said hierarchical relationships and said source content.

10. The method of claim 9 wherein said step of assigning hierarchical
30 relationships comprises using a drag and drop computer interface means.

11. The method of claim 9 wherein said step of defining a template utilizes a series of template elements and template substitution codes.

12. The method of claim 11 wherein said rendering step comprises
5 performing a series of substitutions in accordance with said template substitution codes.

13. The method of claim 12 wherein said rendering step further comprises building a string to be inserted for each appropriate hierarchical level whenever a
10 hierarchical substitution code is encountered.

14. The method of claim 9 further comprising a publishing step for distributing over the Internet said final HTML pages.

15. The method of claim 14 further comprising a step of previewing at the
15 computer how the final HTML pages will appear to an Internet reader.

16. The method of claim 9 wherein said source content is in at least one of a plurality of formats, said plurality of formats selected from the group consisting of
20 printed pages, HTML, Adobe Portable Document Format (PDF), Graphics Interchange Format (GIF), Joint Photographic Experts (JPEG), Microsoft Word, and any other electronic format recognizable by the computer.

17. A computer program product recorded on computer readable medium
25 and containing indicia of instructions for a computer to perform a method of creating an electronic document from a source document having a source content, said electronic document providing linear and hierarchical navigational elements, said method comprising the steps of:

inputting said source document into a computer in the form of a series of
30 HTML files;

creating a page node for each file and assigning a sequential ordering to each said page node;

assigning hierarchical relationships between said page nodes, whereby at least two hierarchical levels are established;

defining a template, said template specifying characteristics of the visual appearance of the electronic document;

5 storing said template; and,

rendering final HTML pages to be displayed, said rendering employing said template, said hierarchical relationships and said source content.

10 18. The computer program product of claim 17 wherein said step of assigning hierarchical relationships comprises using a drag and drop computer interface means.

15 19. The computer program product of claim 17 wherein said step of defining a template utilizes a series of template elements and template substitution codes.

20 20. The computer program product of claim 19 wherein said rendering step comprises performing a series of substitutions in accordance with said template substitution codes.

21. The computer program product of claim 20 wherein said rendering step further comprises building a string to be inserted for each appropriate hierarchical level whenever a hierarchical substitution code is encountered.

25 22. The computer program product of claim 17 wherein said method further comprises a publishing step for distributing over the Internet said final HTML pages.

30 23. The computer program product of claim 22 wherein said method further comprises a step of previewing at the computer how the final HTML pages will appear to an Internet reader.

24. The computer program product of claim 17 wherein said source content is in at least one of a plurality of formats, said plurality of formats selected from the group consisting of printed pages, HTML, Adobe Portable Document Format (PDF), Graphics Interchange Format (GIF), Joint Photographic Experts
5 (JPEG), Microsoft Word, and any other electronic format recognizable by the computer.